

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

CX 5/100

CL 2003/3-FJ  
January 2003

TO: Codex Contact Points  
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission  
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Italy

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT REVISED CODEX  
GENERAL STANDARD FOR VEGETABLE JUICES**

DEADLINE: **31 March 2003**

COMMENTS: **To:**

Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission  
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme  
FAO  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy  
Fax: +39 06 5705 4593  
E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) (*preferably*)

## BACKGROUND

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23-26 April 2002) was unable to consider the *proposed draft revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices* and therefore, it agreed to return it to Step 3 for circulation and further comments. On that occasion, the Task Force noted that those recommendations made by the Drafting Group on the *Proposed Draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars*, which could be applicable to vegetable juices and nectars, might facilitate the revision of the *proposed draft revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices*.<sup>1</sup> The proposed draft revised Standard was circulated for comments at Step 3 under CL 2002/14-FJ with a comment deadline of 31 December 2002. Only a few comments were received in response to that Circular Letter.

2. In addition, when discussing the *proposed draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars*, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Task Force noted that the inclusion of vegetable juices in the *proposed draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars* might envisage some substantial changes in the Proposed Draft, especially as regards the additives, contaminants and analytical methods that might need separate sections. It was further noted that different manufacturing practices applied to vegetable juices which allowed, for instance, the addition of greater percentages of water as well as substances like spices, salts, etc. as opposed to fruit juices that should be kept as natural as possible. In addition, it was pointed out that there were not only technical but also economic reasons to maintain both texts separated since international trade in fruit juices was much more significant than vegetable juices. In view of this, the Task Force agreed that the *proposed draft Codex General Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars* and the *proposed draft revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices* would be considered separately, on the understanding that they might be combined at a later stage.<sup>2</sup>

2. Due to a lack of time the Drafting Group did not consider the *proposed draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices*. The Drafting Group discussed whether there was a need to continue work on the revision/updating of the aforesaid document, recognizing that little international trade occurred with these products (tomato juice was included in the fruit juice standard) and that there had been few comments on the proposed draft revised Standard from interested parties. The Drafting Group noted the potential importance of blended fruit/vegetable juices. The Drafting Group agreed that comments from member countries should be sought via a Circular Letter regarding the need to continue work on this Standard.

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 03/39 paras. 47-48.

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 03/39 paras. 6-7

3. In this regard, the Codex Secretariat wishes to draw the attention of Governments and interested international organizations in Observer status with Codex to the earlier request and to remind them of the existence of a Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices (CODEX STAN 179-1991) and of the Terms of Reference<sup>3</sup> of the Task Force which states that: " *the ad hoc Task Force shall: (a) revise and consolidate the existing Codex standards and guidelines for fruit and **vegetable juices** and related products, giving preference to general standards; (b) to revise and up-date the methods of analysis and sampling for these products; ...*"

4. In view of the few comments received in response to CL 2002/14-FJ and the proposal of the Drafting Group to seek comments on the need to continue work on this Standard, Governments and interested international organizations in Observer status with Codex are **therefore invited to comment** on the ***proposed draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices*** as follows:

- (a) Those in favour of discontinuing work on the revision/updating of the *proposed draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices* (ALINORM 03/39 Appendix III<sup>4</sup>) should indicate if the current Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices (CODEX STAN 179-1991<sup>5</sup>) should be kept unchanged on or should be withdrawn from the List of Codex Standards and to inform the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission accordingly.
- (b) Those in favour of continuing work on the revision/updating of the *proposed draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices* should provide comments on:
  - (i) the provisions of the *proposed draft Revised Codex General Standard for Vegetable Juices* (see ALINORM 03/39 Appendix III);
  - (ii) the submission of data on Brix levels and the methodology to be used for their determination (see ALINORM 03/39 Appendix III, CL 2003/2-FJ); and,
  - (iii) the identification of methods of analysis matching with the *General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis* as set out in the *Principles for the Establishment of Codex Methods of Analysis*<sup>6</sup> and the recommendation of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling that only methods of analysis for which there is a provision and/or labelling requirement in the Standard should be proposed for endorsement by CCMAS (see ALINORM 03/39-Appendix III for the list of methods of analysis for vegetable juices and CX/FJ 03/3 for further information on the recommendations of CCMAS regarding endorsement of methods of analysis).

Comments and data submitted on points (a) and (b) will be considered by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices to be met in May 2003.

---

<sup>3</sup> Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, pages. 115-116.

<sup>4</sup> ALINORM 03/39 is available in English, French and Spanish and can be downloaded from: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/reports.asp>.

<sup>5</sup> CODEX STAN 179-1991 is available in English, French and Spanish and can be downloaded from: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/standards\\_search.asp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/standards_search.asp) by writing "vegetable juices" in the "Title" Box.

<sup>6</sup> Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, pages 64-74.